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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR.

March 1954

SUBJECT

Aluminum Plant under Construction near Tlmace

NO. OF PAGES

2

PLACE ACQUIRED

[Redacted]

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[Redacted]

1. An aluminum plant in Czechoslovakia was under construction in southern Slovakia directly southeast of the community of Tlmace on the Hron River (Q 49/T 92), about 10 kilometers northwest of Levice (Q 49/U C1).
2. The project of an aluminum plant in Czechoslovakia had been under discussion since 1950 as, for military reasons, the Czech aircraft industry strove to become independent of foreign raw materials and light metal alloys had proved excellent substitutes for copper alloys which were in short supply in Czechoslovakia.
3. [Redacted] it was intended to make this project the largest aluminum plant in Central Europe. He said that this plant would include a melting department as well as a light-metal rolling mill and would be able to produce all light metal semi-finished goods needed in Czechoslovakia and even allow exports.
4. All bauxite shipments came from Hungary by rail. Magnesite shipments came from nearby Slovak magnesite districts near Lovinobana (Q 49/D C2) and Jalsava (Q 49/D 53), and electric power was supplied by the hydroelectric power plants on the Vah River, the electric power plant in Dobsina (R 49/D 53) and nearby steam power plants and was scheduled to be supplied later by a large-sized power plant projected on the Hron River.
5. In late 1952, construction activity at the building site was intensive. Major machine shops were under construction. Installing the electrolytic furnaces allegedly commenced in mid-March 1953. Production was scheduled to start at the beginning of 1954.
6. [Redacted] Czechoslovakia was short of competent experts as the Tlmace factory was the first light metal plant to be constructed in Czechoslovakia. [Redacted] therefore, efforts had been initiated in late 1951 to make students of Czech universities and particularly, of metallurgical, mechanical engineering and chemical schools at Institutes of Technology attend 2-term courses of special instruction on light metallurgy at the Budapest Institute of Technology which was leading in this subject. [Redacted] carefully selected

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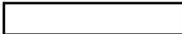
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experienced electric furnace operators, founders and other skilled workers were detailed to various Hungarian plants to receive training in light metal working to be able to serve as foremen in the new Tlraçe plant.

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 Comment: This is the first report received which indicates an aluminum plant under construction at any location in Czechoslovakia other than the one at Svaty Kriz nad Hronom.

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